

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

SCI-06 SCEM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /193 W

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R 191522Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8941

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA PETROLEUM SUPPLY

REF: STATE 226659 AND 224833 (NOTAL);

PRETORIA 4142 AND 3851 (NOTAL)

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMICS MINISTER MULLER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH IRAN LARGEST SINGLE SOURCE, ONLY THIRTY PERCENT OF SA CRUDE OIL SUPPLY CAME FROM THERE. OTHER SOURCES, PRINCIPALLY ARAB, HAD VARIED WITH COMPANY ARRANGEMENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH IMAGE OF MAIN RELIANCE ON IRAN FOR CRUDE OIL HAS BEEN NURTURED LOCALLY FOR LONG TIME, APPARENT REALITY OF GREATER DEPENDENCE ON ARAB SOURCES IS EMERGING. RAND DAILY MAIL NOV. 19

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CLAIMS CONFIRMATION THAT SA GETS "LESS THAN HALF OF ITS

100 MILLION BARRELS A YEAR FROM IRAN."

3. DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION RESTRAINT PROGRAM (PRETORIA 4142)
FORMALLY PUT IN EFFECT FRIDAY WITH GAZETTING OF RELATIVELY
SEVERE PENALTIES. ONE REPORT SAYS SAG GOAL IS REDUCE
GASOLINE CONSUMPTION BY MOTORISTS (ESTIMATED AT 28 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION) BY 15 PERCENT. PREDICTIONS ABOUND
THAT RATIONING WILL BE IMPOSED AFTER TURN OF YEAR. NOV 19
PAPERS REPORT FIRST CANCELLATIONS AIRLINE FLIGHTS BETWEEN SA
AND EUROPE AS FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURE. ACTION BY SA ON
INTERNAL FLIGHTS STILL UNDER STUDY.

4. SAG STILL HAS NOT RELEASED BACKGROUND STATISTICS ON
PETROLEUM SITUATION BUT VARIOUS STUDIES, PRESUMABLY PIECED
TOGETHER FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES, ARE SURFACING IN PRESS, E.G.,
FINANCIAL MAIL OF NOV. 16, AND THESE FIGURES ARE IN BALL
PARK WITH THOSE INDICATED PRETORIA 3851 FROM CONFIDENTIAL
INDUSTRY SOURCES. FM FIGURES (CONVERTED ROUGHLY FROM CUBIC
METERS) INDICATE CONSUMPTION 300,000 B.P.D. DIVIDED 28 PERCENT
RETAIL TRADE, 29 PERCENT INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS, 4 PERCENT TO
GOVT, 7 PERCENT COMMERCIAL USERS, 9 PERCENT TO AGRICULTURE,
2 PERCENT TO AVIATION, AND 21 PERCENT TO SHIPS BUNKERS.
BUNKERS FIGURE (ABOUT 60,000 B.P.D.) PER FM IS ONLY TWO-THIRDS
THAT ESTIMATED BY INDUSTRY SOURCE RECENTLY.

5. FM ARTICLE NOTES THAT SASOL'S "OIL FROM COAL" OPERATION AS
SUCH STILL VERY SMALL IN TERMS PETROLEUM FUELS NEEDS, BEING
ONLY ABOUT 5,000 B.P.D. FROM COAL PROCESS. FM FIGURE ONLY
MODERATELY BELOW INDUSTRY SOURCE FIGURE. SASOL ASLO HAS NAPHTHA
CRACKING PLANT PRODUCING ABOUT 400,000 TONS GASOLINE ANNUALLY,
BUT NAPHTHA IN TURN COMES FROM CRUDE OIL REFINERIES.

6. POSSIBLE OAU EFFORT TO HAVE ARABS IMPOSE COMPLETE
BOYCOTT ON SA HAS RECEIVED SOME ATTENTION IN PRESS. IN THIS
CONNECTION, KAWZULU CHIEF MINISTER GATSHA BUTHELEZI REPORTED
TO HAVE CAUTIONED OAU "TO THINK TWICE" ABOUT SUCH A MOVE ON
GROUNDS THAT "IT WOULD BE THE BLACKS IN SA WHO WOULD END UP
BEARING THE BRUNT IF THE TAPS WERE TURNED OFF."
HURD

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